

A Greener El Cerrito

COMMERCIAL EDITION

News from the City of El Cerrito Operations + Environmental Services Division

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www.ecenvironment.org | 510-215-4350

EARTH DAY

Get involved!



www.el-cerrito.org

EL CERRITO

Saturday,
April 21st

Work Parties
9AM—12PM

Volunteer
Appreciation Lunch
12PM—1:30PM

Earth Day is a fun way to get involved in your community. Have a work project or want to volunteer?

Register at el-cerrito.org/earthday or call 510-559-7686.

Bike Share Program Launches in El Cerrito

On Tuesday January 30th, the dockless bike sharing company LimeBike began operating in El Cerrito for a six-month pilot program. LimeBike, which is also operating in nearby Albany, is providing more than 100 bicycles for public use, offering El Cerrito residents, businesses, and visitors with an affordable, reliable, and sustainable option for traveling throughout the area.

LimeBike estimates that 25% of urban users use LimeBike to access shopping and entertainment districts, which equates to more money being spent at local businesses and in the community.

The LimeBike rides cost just \$1.00 for 30 minutes, or 50 cents for students. To ride a LimeBike, users can download the iPhone or Android smart-phone app to find a bike nearby, unlock the bike by scanning or entering the bike's plate number, and then go for a ride. When finished, riders lock the bike's back wheel to complete their trip.

To celebrate the launch, new riders can use the code "LimeCerrito" to receive their first five LimeBike rides for free.

Do You Need Labels for Your Waste Containers?

Are you or your employees confused about what goes in the recycling, compost, or trash bin?

If so, please contact the City of El Cerrito's Waste Prevention Specialist, Laureteen Brazil, at lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

to receive bin labels that include photographs to make recycling and composting easier.

The City can also provide posters for your trash enclosures and can conduct a presentation for your employees.

After finishing a ride, cyclists must park responsibly, leaving the bicycle near a bike rack or on the side of the sidewalk as to not block pedestrian traffic.



Go to el-cerrito.org/limebike for more information or visit limebike.com to download the app and get started.



To encourage bike use, businesses can also take advantage of a 511 Contra Costa Grant to install bike racks and lockers at their locations. Businesses that are interested can find more information by contacting the 511 Contra Costa TDM Program Manager, Coire Reilly, at creilly@wcctac.org or by visiting the 511 Contra Costa Employer webpage at 511contracosta.org/employers.

Additionally, a variety of other materials are accepted at the City's award winning Recycling Center. For more information on what can be dropped-off, visit el-cerrito.org/recyclables or call (510) 215-4350 with any questions.

Energy Efficiency Programs for Businesses



Businesses can save money and energy by updating appliances, lighting, and making other energy

upgrades. East Bay Energy Watch (EBEW), a program run by PG&E in conjunction with local governments, offers free energy assessments and project proposals to help your business make these changes. You can choose which project elements you decide to implement and EBEW will begin working with chosen contractors to get the job done.

EBEW works hard to make the process as easy as possible for the business, while maintaining high standards for quality. Once the project is complete, a signature will be required to ensure you are satisfied and PG&E rebates will be applied directly to the cost of your project, eliminating an additional hassle. If you are interested in receiving assistance for an energy upgrade, contact EBEW at (510) 285-4111 or by email at eastbayenergywatch@dnvgl.com.

The Salon on Solano got an energy efficiency make over thanks to the East Bay Energy Watch no-cost screw-in LED program! For Helane York, owner, it's not just about brighter lights, it's about the savings. "We're a small business," she said, "I can use all the help I can get."

Volunteer for a Work Party!

Consider having your business volunteer with El Cerrito's Green Teams doing clean up and environmental restoration work in El Cerrito.

Getting involved with the Green Teams can help you connect with your community and the outdoors, in addition to creating a safer environment for all.

Upcoming events include:

- March 4—Cleanup at El Cerrito Plaza BART
- April 21—Earth Day Events Around El Cerrito
- May 26—Cleanup at the Northern Gateways
- July 8—Cleanup, location to be determined
- November 18—Cleanup at Baxter Creek

For more information about the Green Teams or to organize an event, contact green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 215-4350.

Your Energy Manager is another EBEW business program that can help your business reduce energy and water usage. This program provides a cost benefit analysis for energy and water efficiency upgrades as well as financing options. In addition, Your Energy Manager will train your employees to help drive operational changes. For more information on Your Energy Manager, contact Michael Denevan at Michael@ebenergy.org or (510) 981-7753.

By decreasing your energy usage you can save money and contribute to a healthier environment. In addition, for all EBEW programs, PG&E offers on-bill financing with 0% interest. More information about EBEW and their programs can be found at www.ebew.org.



Mandatory Organics Diversion

In October 2014, the State of California passed a commercial organics recycling law, AB1826, which established a timeline for commercial accounts to adopt organic recycling. This law pertains to apartment complexes, businesses, and institutions.

All commercial accounts generating four cubic yards or more of solid waste per week will need to adopt an organics recycling program by January 1, 2019. Commercial accounts generating more than four cubic yards of organic waste were required to implement an organics recycling program by January 1, 2017.

For more information about AB1826, please visit www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics/ or contact the Operations & Environmental Services Division at (510) 215-4350.

